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From the novel by "THE SECRET OF THE HILLS"

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#### SYNOPSIS

While at dinner at the Oriental, with his friend Lincoln Drew, Guy Fenton, an American correspondent of a press association, sees Marion Overton, and becomes interested. Through an accident, he receives her guardian, Francis Freeland's, coat, from the cloak-boy, and Freeland is given his. Neither notices the exchange, and go on their way, Freeland hurrying home with his ward, having seen two members of a band of international crooks following him. Fenton, after a visit to a music hall, is homeward bound through the streets unrecognizable in the fog, and enters the wrong house, where he discovers a slain man. In the midst of his bewilderment, he hears moans, and discovers the girl, bound and gagged in her bedroom. Marion, finding him ready to help and trusting him, tells her story. She was an orphan and lived with Professor Freeland, her guardian. After a visit to Scotland her guardian displayed such fear, as to distrust even the servants. A rare book, which he had told her was valuable and would make her rich, is discovered to have been stolen. The coat incident is brought to view, and after a good deal of persuasion, Fenton explains how the cloak-boy had made the error. Some valuable papers are discovered in the pocket, and Fenton, unable to solve the cipher of one marked "treasure hidden", appeals to his friend Drew, after placing the girl on her train for Red Gables. Between the two, they solve the cipher, to find it refers to one of Hector Boece's Scottish histories. Leaving his friend to hunt up the histories, Fenton calls on the girl at Red Gables. He is treated as a guest by the Miltimores, but prevented from being too long with Marian by the hostess on her husband's request. Returning to the city, Fenton finds that Drew has discovered a clue to the treasure Freeland sought to recover, which was a lost chest containing the personal jewels of King James the Third of Scotland. Fenton receives a note from Miltimore, asking him to spend the week-end to talk over Freeland's investigation. Fenton accepts the invitation and during the course of the evening, is summoned by Miltimore for a chat. Fenton learns the hiding place of the book, but refuses to join and share with Miltimore the treasure. He ignores Miltimore's threats. That night, Fenton enters the library and by a little strategy takes possession of the book. However, he is a prisoner in his room as Miltimore's agents are watching the house on all sides. Looking about for a way of escape, Fenton is attracted to a large chest in the room and finds a secret trap and stairs which he follows. Miltimore bursting into the room

with his Butler, discovers his escape and sends his butler to guard the other end of the passage. Fenton finds his way along the passage, and discovers the equipment of a counterfeiters' den. While contemplating this, his progress is blocked by the appearance of the butler and Miltimore, with other agents within call. He puts up a big fight, but the odds are too many and he is captured. Bound and gagged, he is put in an automobile which had been ordered by some of the agents and driven away. The chauffeur proves none other than Drew, who had worn the disguise of an old artist, learned the gang's plans, bribed the chauffeur with drink and assumed his place. He quickly rids Fenton of his captors and bonds, and they return to the city. The book proves the solution of the mystery and hiding place of the treasure, and the two go to Scotland to get it. Miltimore unable to force Fenton to give in, tries with the aid of a note from Marion to get Fenton in his power. It works, and Fenton and Drew consent to give up the treasure, and lead Miltimore's men to it. Miltimore double-crosses his men - Fenton and Drew put up a good fight when this is discovered and win out. With the treasure, they make an assault on Miltimore, his wife and guard at the old farmhouse where they have Marion prisoner, and free the girl. The three make their escape, and meeting the police on the way, who had been warned by the neighbors, guide them back. Miltimore tries to fasten the blame on Fenton, but in making his escape, is shot. He makes a confession clearing Fenton. On the way back to the city, Drew drives, while Fenton pleads his suit with Marion, and wins.

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